

I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 651 on H.R. No. 628, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, An act to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

APPOINTMENTS—INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas). Pursuant to section 235 of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-211), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Indian Law and Order Commission:

Ms. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, Brookings, South Dakota; and in addition,

Mr. EARL POMEROY, Bismarck, North Dakota.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1517

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE) at 3 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 105, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2011

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-689) on the resolution (H. Res. 1776) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 105) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1776 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1776

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 105) making further continuing appropriations

for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1520

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1776.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1776 provides a closed rule for the consideration of H.J. Res. 105, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the joint resolution. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit the joint resolution with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of approving a continuing resolution to maintain a level and consistent funding stream for our government.

This resolution is aptly numbered "1776," a patriotic number for a patriotic bill that will allow government to continue its normal operations until midnight, on Tuesday, to give the Senate a chance to complete its deliberations.

I could take this opportunity to share the frustration of our colleagues at the inability of the Senate to complete its work in a timely manner; but in the spirit of the season, Mr. Speaker, I will simply say that we must pass this continuing resolution to allow the Senate to continue its important work and deliberations to create either a longer term continuing resolution or an omnibus appropriations package that will allow the regular business of

government to keep the people of America safe to continue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) not only for his friendship but also for being with us today as we approach the floor on H. Res. 1776.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, I stood right here to do a rule and pointed out that my Democrat colleagues continue to use an unprecedented restrictive and closed process on the House floor, and I am here today to tell the same story.

At least this is very consistent behavior. For 2 years, we have had nothing but closed rules, and here we are today, in fact, in the same place, except what we are doing here today, again, is discussing a long-term continuing resolution, a resolution that went nowhere in the Senate. Yet we are here again today, doing another continuing resolution so that our government does not shut down on Saturday.

Last week, the Rules Committee, under Democrat leadership, reported out an unprecedented long-term martial law rule. They gave themselves 11 days to bring up any bill under a rule that same day, and just yesterday, they reported out an additional martial law rule through Christmas Eve. This only continues the backroom, closed deals that have been pursued throughout the 111th Congress.

What was promised to be the most "open, honest, and ethical" Congress by Speaker NANCY PELOSI when she took the gavel has turned into the most closed, one-sided Congress in history. We tax too much. We spend too much. We regulate too much. We listen too little.

Mr. Speaker, the American people asked for changes in 2008, and they got something that was far worse. In 3 weeks, that will change; but until then, I am here to discuss another closed rule for another continuing resolution.

This day continues to bring about more overspending, which has been a common theme of the last two Congresses—not just another CR but another omnibus. The underlying legislation is a CR to keep the government running until Tuesday. That is true. The Democrats provided no budget this year, and the President has not signed one appropriations bill into law this year. So this legislation and the rule is just another tactic to keep the government running until the majority can figure out its next priority. Well, I assure you it will be all about spending.

Over the past 3 years, nondefense, non-Homeland Security and non-Veterans Affairs discretionary spending has increased by a staggering 88 percent. In the meantime, the Nation's debt has risen to \$13.5 trillion. There have been yearly record deficits since our friends, the Democrats, took the majority and record unemployment. The unemployment rate has now been